MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 253.

Enacting MFRA by Gujarat

*253. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3144 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Gujarat has enacted the Marine Fishing Regulation Act debarring mechanised fishing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The State Government of Gujarat has passed "Gujarat Fisheries Draft Bill 2003" on 5.3.03 which when enters into force will have jurisdiction over the entire terrororial waters of the State.

The draft bill does not debar mechanized fishing. However section 7(1) of the Draft Bill empowers the State Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, to regulate, restrict or prohibit in any specified area-(a) the fishing by such class or classes of fishing vessels and for such period as may be specified in the notification and (f) the number of fishing vessels which may be used for fishing.

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Sir, it is good that the Gujarat Assembly has passed a legislation on 5th March, at the instance of my question. But I want to know regarding debarring the mechanised fishing, whether the Government have marked, or are considering marking, any limit on the long coastline of the country debarring the mechanised fishing to help the poor fishermen?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: This Bill was passed only on the 5th of this month and it has not barred mechanised fishing, but there is an enabling provision that they can make rules and tell how much area is limited for mechanised fishing and how much is reserved for the traditional fishermen.

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: My second supplementary is, whether the Government has taken any action to provide help to the poor fishermen from the clutches of mechanised fishing.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, we have many schemes for the welfare of fishermen. We also give subsidy on diesel. We also help them in mechanising their boats. The Government provides money for fishermen to mechanise their boats also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 254, Shri R.S. Gavai, not present, Q.No. 255, Shri V.V. Raghavan and Shri J. Chitharanjan, not present.

**254.* [The questioner (Shri R.S. Gavai) was absent. For answer *vide* page 43 *infra*].

**255.* [The questioner (Shri V.V. Raghavan and Shri J. Chitharanjan) were absent. For answer *vide* page 43-44 *infra*].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 256.

Ozone depletion

*256. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a signatory to Copenhagen and Montreal protocols on controlling Hydro-Chloro-Fluro Carbon (HCFC), Hydro-Bromo-Fluro Carbon (HBFC) and Methylene Bromide emissions causing damage to Ozone layer on its skies;

(b) if so, the measures initiated by India to protect the Ozone layer; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ban the aerosol dispensing devices which also cause Ozone depletion?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) India became a Party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer on 17th September, 1992. The Copenhagen Amendment to Montreal Protocol which mandates control of Hydro Chloro Fluro Carbon (HCFC), Hydro Bromo Fluro Carbon (HBFC) and Methyl Bromide has also been approved for ratification.